

usual. I'm not going to. I was dead serious on my signature to that letter. I will not vote to pass a budget that will have a tax increase in it. What that means is I'm going to vote for this across the board cut. If that does not succeed I am not going to vote for any motion that will seek to advance this bill until such time as we bite the bullet and make the cuts. I don't think its responsible legislative action to do as Senator Lamb suggested and that is pass the buck over to the Governor's Office. The Governor is not the second house. We abolished the second house a good number of years ago long before any of us came down here. The Governor is not the second house. The Governor is the executive branch. He's there for over...his veto power is there for oversight purposes, it is not there for legislating. We, the Legislature, have the responsibility to pass the most responsible budget that we can. I think given the two bad alternatives of across the board cuts and tax increases the most responsible position at this time, given the state of our economy, is this across the board cut. If this across the board does not pass I think we're in for a much longer session on LB 722. I know some people have objected to the amount of time we've spent on 722. I know my people back home that sent me down here think that this is the most important bill in front of the Legislature. It is not one that we merely pass on for the Governor to sign or to veto. This is what it's all about. This is what the people back home are concerned about. What are the services we are going to provide them? Are they essential or are they not essential and what are their tax rates? How much of their money that they earn are we going to be allowing them to keep? I think that they would want me to stand here and argue and debate and offer amendments and speak on amendments and vote their interest as long as it takes to get as lean a budget as possible and I think that's what this is all about at this point. I think this may be the key vote on whether we pass a budget bill this year, not on whether we pass a good budget bill, but on whether we pass one. I'm going to vote for this and I urge 24 other people to vote also. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB PRESIDING

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers to address the Beutler amendment to the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President, I was just going